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Letter dated 2 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 November 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 16 October 2001 (A/56/476-S/2001/972) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 1 August 2001 (A/55/1025-S/2001/765). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air-traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish State aircraft within international airspace, within which the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air-traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim of the Greek Cypriot administration does not correspond to the reality in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within their respective territories on the island.

I would like to draw attention, once again, to the fact that while refusing to accept the realities of the island, the Greek Cypriot side is continuing with its hostile activities on the island. The Greek Cypriot administration, in collaboration with Greece, is furthering its military build-up in South Cyprus within the framework of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine. The wide range of sophisticated weaponry displayed at the military parade held by the Greek Cypriot administration on 1 October 2001 shows that the Greek Cypriot side is getting ready for war and is not interested in the peaceful resolution of the Cyprus issue.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Cyprus Mail*, of 2 October 2001, reported that "newly acquired military hardware went on display" at the above-mentioned parade, including T-80, AMX-30B2 and M48A5 tanks, BMP-3s, Cascavel and VAB personnel carriers, as well as MI-26 helicopters on loan from Russia. Another Greek Cypriot daily *Alithia*, of 2 October 2001, reported that French-made 120 mm mortars, MIS-200GD vehicles equipped with 40 mm rocket launchers, newly acquired 203 mm M110-AZ systems, 155 mm M114 Zuzana mobile artillery units and 122 mm BM-21 multi-barrel rocket launchers, as well as TOR-MI anti-aircraft missiles and Exocet missiles, were on display at the parade. The Greek Cypriot daily *Politis*, of the same date, reported that Bell, Gazelle and HIU type helicopters also

took part in the parade. The parade was also attended by the Greek Defence Minister, Akis Tzohatzopoulos.

Despite the fact that the parade revealed the dangerous level the Greek Cypriot militarization has reached, the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, as reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Cyprus Mail*, dated 2 October 2001, provocatively stated that "you have not seen all our weapons systems, but you saw what we wanted to show you." This statement by the Greek Cypriot leader is a clear sign that the Greek Cypriot administration has been and is channelling excessive resources into offensive arms purchases which pose a direct threat to the security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Following the above-mentioned provocative parade, the Greek Cypriot administration carried out the annual military manoeuvres code-named "Nikiforos 2001" from 16 to 21 October 2001 in South Cyprus. As reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, dated 20 October 2001, these provocative manoeuvres entailed attack scenarios against the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with the objective of "recovering occupied territories". Editions of the same newspaper, dated 19, 20 and 22 October 2001, reported that PC-9 aircraft, Huey, MI-26, Bell and Gazelle type helicopters equipped with HOT type anti-tank missiles as well as T-80, AMX-30B2 tanks and Jararaca-type armoured vehicles equipped with Milan missiles were used during the manoeuvres. Editions of the Greek Cypriot newspaper, *Cyprus Weekly*, dated from 19 to 25 October 2001, reported that 10,000 Greek Cypriot national guard troops as well as 20,000 reservists took part in the manoeuvres. Live artillery and mortar fire were used and anti-tank missiles launched from helicopters and tanks during the manoeuvres.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, of 21 October 2001, reported that the "Toxotis" military manoeuvres, which take place in conjunction with the "Nikiforos" manoeuvres, with the participation of Greek air force and naval units, was postponed owing to the prevailing circumstances in the area. It has been reported, however, that, in accordance with the decision of Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, the "Toxotis" manoeuvres will be held at a future date.

It is clear from the above actions that, instead of encouraging the Greek Cypriot administration to concentrate its efforts on reaching a realistic settlement with the Turkish Cypriot side, Greece is assisting the Greek Cypriot militarization efforts within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine. It was reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, of 29 August 2001, that the construction of the naval base at Zygi in South Cyprus has been accelerated and also that the Greek Cypriot navy would be bolstered by the introduction of new weapon systems. According to the same news item, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Hasikos, stated that the base would be completed very shortly and would meet the requirements of the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Furthermore, the same newspaper, in its edition of 23 September 2001, reported that the Greek Hellas satellite system will be utilized, within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine, to serve the military telecommunications needs of both Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration.

In view of the above, it is clear that the Greek Cypriot administration is not sincere about reaching a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I strongly protest the hostile military preparations of the Greek Cypriot side and call upon the

international community to urge the Greek Cypriot administration to abandon its escalatory policies and to stop the rearmament campaign. This would indeed help create the necessary environment for reconciliation between the two States on the island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus